

PROVOST

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Provost Community Profile.



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Alberta

INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

[Deputy]



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PROVOST COMMUNITY PROFILE

October 1972

AN INTRODUCTION

Location

Provost, 180 miles southeast of Edmonton, is located on section 17-39-2, west of the 4th, in Census Division No. 7. The town is midway between Edmonton and Saskatoon on the Edmonton-Winnipeg line of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Highway No. 13 links the community with the provincial transportation network. Provost is just 11 miles west of the Saskatchewan boundary.

Altitude: 2189 feet; latitude: 52/21; longitude: 110/15.

Population

	1951	1961	1967	1971
Town	676	971	1,344	1,502
Trading area* ..	7,000	8,000	9,000	9,000

* 35 miles to the east, west and south and 25 miles to the north.

Weather*

Summer mean temperature — 59.76 degrees F.

Winter mean temperature — 8.52 degrees F.

Annual mean temperature — 34.03 degrees F.

Average annual rainfall — 10.70 inches.

Average annual snowfall — 43.63 inches.

Average annual precip. — 15.07 inches.

*Averages are estimated from data taken at the nearest weather station, from 1955 to 1967 incl.

Geology

The bedrock of this area underlying the glacial deposits is the Belly River formation of the Upper Cretaceous period. This formation is a series of light coloured sandstones and shale. This horizon in other parts of the Province includes dinosaur beds and coal seams.

Soil

The Provost district is in the dark brown soil zone.

Profile: In the normal profile, the surface (A) horizon averages about seven inches in depth and is dark brown in colour. The (B) horizon is brownish, and the lime layer (Bca) is found usually at depths of 20 to 24 inches below the surface. In this zone as in other zones, the (B) horizon, having received some finer material from the (A), is usually somewhat heavier and more compact than the (A) horizon.

Fertility: Moisture continues to be the principal limiting factor in crop production. Soils in this zone are relatively low in nitrogen and organic matter, but are higher in these constituents than soils of the brown zone.

Vegetation: Chiefly short grass prairie. The grass makes a denser cover and taller growth than in the brown zone.



Grain growing is mainstay of area economy, and nine elevators in Provost have a total capacity of 843,000 bushels.

Land Use: Only the better soil types can be considered arable. The remainder generally is good pasture land. Wheat is grown almost to the exclusion of other crops. Cropping practices must provide for conservation of moisture and control of soil drifting. The best quality wheat in the province is grown in this and the other grassland zones.

History

C.P.R. surveyors shortly after the turn of the century laid out the townsite and named it and its streets from a Scottish theme. The name of the town is pronounced as it is spelled and not in the French or military manner. The streets are named after cities of old Scotia and the avenues commemorate Canadian associations.

Early settlers reached the Provost area by ox-cart, horse drawn wagons, and on foot from the railhead at Battleford before 1909. In that year the railroad finally reached the hamlet from Hardisty farther west. Pioneer businessmen, P. O. Foss, J. Brue, G. Seath, F. Larson, H. Briggenshaw, E. W. Theaker, E. G. Meiklejohn and D. Johnstone, some of whom started their enterprises from tents and shiplap sheds, began the commercial development of the district which today serves a wide area. The Methodist Church, now serving as a Masonic lodge hall, was built in 1908. A Mr. River and a Mr. Woodsworth served as preachers. The Anglican Church was also built that year with the Rev. Mr. Myers as pastor. In 1910 the Catholic Church was built and Rev. Fr. Formar served in St. Mary's Parish. Now Provost has six churches.

The first venture into the publishing field was "The Star" started in 1910 by Schumacher and York, Publishers. In 1908, the Canadian Bank of Commerce opened in a two storey white frame building on the present bank location, under the management of I. Gordon who was followed after a few months by F. W. West. H. E. McFall was the teacher who opened the first school in Provost. P. O. Foss was the first postmaster.

Provost was incorporated as a village in 1910 with N. A. Kilburn as reeve. John Campbell and G. McNeil were the first councillors. It was in 1952 that the village became a town while Mr. Dave Johnstone was mayor.

Provost is also the seat of government for the Municipal District of Provost No. 52,

serving a large surrounding rural area.

Town Development

Development permit values shown in this table are an effective indicator of town progress:

Year	Number	Value
1954	22	\$178,150
1955	12	76,050
1966	22	410,950
1967	26	431,245
1968	25	679,450
1969	20	417,500
1970	18	449,900
1971	23	480,000

LIVEABILITY

Provost is a clean and orderly town with cement side walks and paved roads. The district is noted for its rich farmlands.

Dillberry Lake, with a provincial park, is 26 miles northeast of the town. Summer cottages line the shore and good trout fishing can be found. Shorncliffe Lake Park, near Czar, 30 miles west of Provost, also supplies holiday pleasures for the townsfolk. Cap Eyre Lake campsite, 20 miles west of Provost, provides trout fishing and recreation.

The hunter can find a plentiful supply of ducks and geese in the district during hunting season.

Educational facilities are provided, for grades 1 to 12, in both public and separate schools.

Average rent for a five-room house, is \$100 per month.

The town's total corporate area comprises 399 acres, of which 24 acres is parks and playgrounds, and 56 acres is used for streets and highways.

There are eight miles of concrete sidewalks, 7½ miles of paved streets and roads, 2½ miles of gravelled streets and roads, 3½ miles of gravelled lanes and alleys.



Attractive residential areas for growing population.

ADMINISTRATION

Civic Government

The town is governed by a council consisting of a mayor and six councillors. Policy set by council is carried out by the secretary-treasurer. The foreman of works supervises a crew of four men looking after the sewer, water, roads and parks departments.

Civic Building houses town offices, fire hall, library, court room, and goal.

Tax Structure

1968 Net Assessment	
Land — 50% of fair value	\$ 430,295
Improvements — 50% of fair value	
	2,795,015
Business	266,171
Power	25,280
Total	\$3,516,761

Mill Rate 1971

School	36
Municipal	27
Hospital	7
Total	70



Provost Civic Building houses the town offices, fire hall, library, court room and goal.

PROTECTIVE AND UTILITY SERVICES

Law Enforcement

The town is policed by three R.C.M.P. constables under a corporal. The rural districts are policed by constables of the R.C.M.P. from the Provost detachment.

All new buildings, and changes in buildings, or removal of buildings must be approved by the council after which a permit is issued.

Electrical installations must comply with the Alberta Electrical Protection Act.

Fire Protection

The Provost Fire Brigade has been an honoured institution in the district for many years. The chief and 24 volunteer firemen are remunerated by the town and the rural municipality for fire calls and wet practices.

Two modern four-ton trucks with 700-gallon tanks and 500 G.P.M. front-mounted pumps are housed in a temperature controlled fire hall in the Civic Building. All necessary equipment and accessories are provided, including: one 200 G.P.M. portable pump, 1800-ft. 2½-inch hose, 1600-ft. 1½-inch hose, four large CO2 extinguishers, two 24-ft. aluminum ladders, two 24-ft. roof ladders, one 7½ h.p. electric alarm siren, controlled from six special telephones located in separate residences, and 43 fire hydrants, on 6-inch mains, conveniently located throughout the town.

A fire prevention bylaw is in effect.

Water and Sewer

Water is obtained from two wells. It is pumped 10½ miles into a 250,000-gallon reservoir and a 62,500-gal. elevated storage tank.

Analysis — March, 1968	Parts per mil.
Total Solids —	386
Ignition Loss —	160
Hardness —	277
Sulphates (SO4) —	28
Chlorides —	4
Alkalinity —	290
Nature of Alkalinity —	Bicarbonate of lime, magnesium and soda
Nitrite Nitrogen —	Trace
Nitrate Nitrogen (N) —	1.8
Iron —	0.08

Remarks: Water is chemically suitable.

Water Rates:

Billed bi-monthly.

Domestic	
Water	\$5.40 per month.
Sewer	\$2.00 per month.
Total	\$7.40 per month.
All over 3,000 gallons at \$1.20 per thousand gallons.	

Commercial	Water	Sewer
Garages	\$11.00	\$5.00 per month
Businesses	6.60	3.00 per month
School	88.00	40.00 per month
Hotels	110.00	50.00 per month
Hospital	132.00	60.00 per month

All over 2,000 gallons monthly on a graduated schedule.

The town has 25,000 feet of water mains; 25,050 feet of sewer mains.

Garbage Collection

Garbage is collected twice weekly, a town public service.

Electric Power

Three phase, 60 cycle power is supplied under a ten-year franchise by Calgary Power Limited.

Rates:

Domestic Service: Available only for lighting, heating, cooking, domestic power and ordinary uses in private houses and apartments used exclusively for residential purposes.

First 20 KW hours (or less) per month \$2.60 gross minimum, subject to 30 cents prompt payment discount, making \$2.30 net minimum, includes 20 KW hours. Next 280 KW hours at 1½ cents. All over 300 KW hours at 1½ cents.

Discount of 30 cents applies on all bills paid within discount period. The foregoing rate applies where the maximum demand does not exceed five kilowatts. Where the demand exceeds five kilowatts, an additional monthly demand charge of 50 cents per kilowatt may be made.

Reconnection charge — \$4.60.

Commercial Service: Available where other rates listed do not apply.

General Service Charge: Applicable to commercial establishments or any other premises which do not qualify for residential service rate.

Demand charge — \$1.00 per month per KW of demand.

Energy Charge:

First 40 KW hours per KW of demand — 5 cents per KW hour; next 100 KW hours per KW of demand (but not over 1000 KW hours per month) — 3 cents per KW hour; all additional energy used per month — 1¼ cents per KW hour.

Minimum Charge: \$2.30 per month or demand charge if greater.

The above are net rates applicable if paid within 10 days from date rendered. The net bill will be increased 5% but not less than 30 cents per month after discount date.

Fuels

Natural Gas: Installed in the town by Northwestern Utilities. The Provost gas field, nine miles southwest of town, has a proven reserve of over 57.1 billion cubic feet.

L.P. Gas: Calorific value — 2,521 b.t.u. per cubic foot at 60 degrees F. Available in 100-pound cylinders at \$6, or in bulk at 15 cents per gallon. There is bulk storage of 18,000 gallons.

Diesel Fuel: Heat value — 135,000 to 140,000 b.t.u. per gallon at 60 degrees F. Summer grade sells for 21.4 cents per gallon plus three cents tax; winter grade sells at the same price. Storage capacity — 64,700 gallons.

Gasoline: Bulk storage — 148,700 gallons.



Hillcrest Lodge provides living accommodation for district senior citizens.

HEALTH SERVICES

Provost Municipal Hospital District No. 12 operates a 34-bed hospital in town with a staff of 45. An intensive care unit including cardiac monitoring and resuscitator defibrillator has recently been provided for service in the Provost Hospital.

Rates, for public wards, without insurance coverage, are \$2.50 daily for Alberta residents; \$20 daily for non-residents.

Hillcrest Lodge, located near the hospital, provides living accommodation for district

senior citizens at statutory rates under provincial and municipal sponsorship. A 36-bed nursing home is also located near the hospital.

A private medical centre is staffed with four physicians and one dentist. There is also a chiropractic centre with one chiropractor.

A district health nurse is also located in town.



Provost Hospital is well equipped and well staffed.

EDUCATION

Provost School Division No. 33, operates the public schools while Provost R. C. Separate S. D. No. 65 provides educational services through its St. Thomas Aquinas School, also in town. The combined schools have 29 rooms, with 32 teachers in grades one to twelve inclusive. There are 650 pupils in the

town schools. Twelve vans bring the district students to school. The following optional subjects are offered: Bookkeeping, home economics, arts and crafts, music, general mathematics, psychology and sociology, biology, drama, and economics.



Community Hall is setting for many town and district functions.

ACTIVITIES AND RECREATION



Several churches serve the town and district, including St. Mary's Catholic Church, above.

Churches

Anglican, Gospel Mission, Lutheran, Pentecostal, Roman Catholic, and United Church of Canada.

Organizations, Societies, Clubs

Chamber of Commerce, Royal Canadian Legion, Legion Ladies' Auxiliary, Hospital Auxiliary Association, Kinsmen Club, Lions Club, Alberta Association of Registered Nurses, Fish and Game Association, Home and School Association, Eastern Star, Masonic Lodge, Rebekah Lodge, Knights of Columbus, and Catholic Women's League.

Cultural Activities

The Town of Provost Municipal Library, located in the Civic Building, is supported with town and provincial grants as well as membership fees. The Provost Hobby Club is a private club and is provided with accommodation in the Community Hall, a town supported service.

And the Kinsmen Club Community Band is not the least of Provost's attractions.

Youth Activities

Boys: Scouts, Cubs.

Girls: Guides, Brownies, Explorers, Catholic Young Group, C.G.I.T.

Sports

Baseball: senior, junior and Little League are well supported by local people who sponsor several teams from the area immediately surrounding the town.

Hockey: senior and junior, are promoted locally in season. A fine arena serves it well.

Softball, basketball, discus throwing and badminton also find enthusiasts in the district.

Golf is represented in a club-owned nine-hole course within the town boundaries. And curling also has its devotees who form a club and own a rink with four sheets of artificial ice.

The Provost Fairgrounds have been provided with 800-seat bleachers as a Centennial project and four handsome booths, also serving as camp kitchens, have since been completed. Playing fields, a race track, and a gymkhana course are all in view from the bleachers.

A swimming pool, located beside the arena, was opened during 1972.

Recreation Board

All recreation facilities in the area are administered by the 10-member Recreation Board.

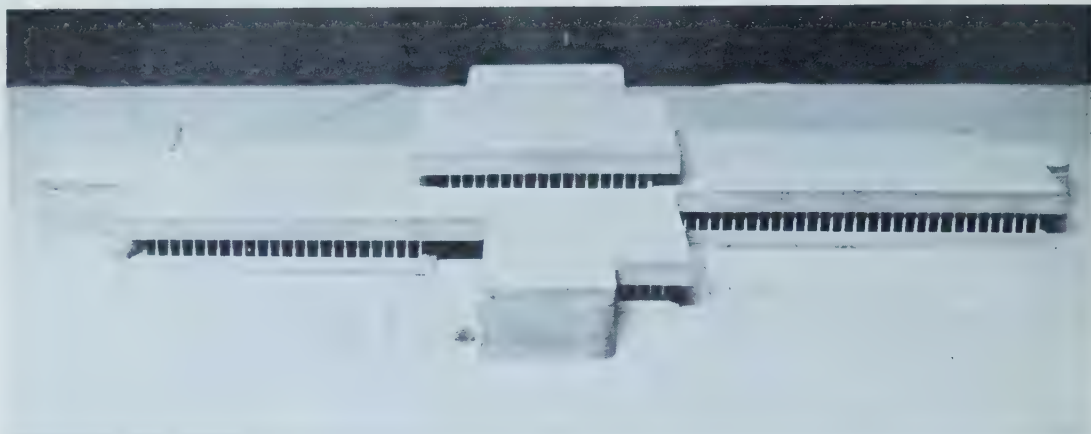
Annual Events

Sports Day on July 1; annual Fall Fair.

Theatres and Halls

	Capacity	Stage	Piano
Royal Theatre	288	yes	no
Community Hall	300	yes	yes
Arena Hall	200	no	no

BUSINESSES AND SERVICES



New headquarters for M.D. of Provost, under construction in 1972.

Government Offices

Federal: Post Office, R.C.M.P. detachment.

Provincial: Treasury Branch, Alberta Government Telephones, superintendent of schools, wildlife officer, district agriculturist, district health nurse, and government liquor store.

Municipal: M.D. of Provost No. 52 offices and works shop.

Barber Shops	2
Watch Repairs	1
Photographer	1
Mortician	1

Financial Facilities

Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce; Provincial Treasury Branch.

Co-operatives

Alberta Wheat Pool; United Grain Growers Ltd.; U.F.A. Co-op oil distributors; U.F.A. Co-op farm machinery distributors; Co-op seed cleaning plant.

Professional and Skilled Services

Type of Establishments	No. of Establishments
Beauty Parlors	2



Bank building is representative of town business structures.

Business Establishments

Type of Industry or Business	No. of Establishments
Accountants	2
Ambulance Service	1
Auction Market	1
Auto Body Shop	1
Automotive Wholesale	1
Banking	2
Barbers	2
Books & Stationery	See Drug Stores
Butchers	2
Building Contractors	2
Bakery	1
Cartage Delivery	3
Chiropractors	1
Clothing (Women & Children)	4
Coal Dealers	1
Cold Storage Lockers	1
Coin Laundry	1
Dentists	1
Doctors	4
Drive-in dairy bar	1
Drugs	2
Dry Cleaners	2
Dry Goods Stores	4
Dairy	1
Electrical Appliances	5
Electrical Contractors	2
Floor Coverings	1
Funeral Parlors	1
Furniture Store	1
Garages & Service Stns.	10
Grain Elevators	9 (843,000 bu.)
Groceries	3
Hair Dressers	3
Hardware	3
Hotels	1
Implements	5
Insurance & Real Estate	2
Jewellers	1
Laundry	1
Lawyer	Calling weekly
Lumber Yards	2
Machinist	1
Milk Distributors	1
Music Teachers	4
Motel	1
Optometrists	2
Oil Distributors	5
Painters & Decorators	2
Plumbers	2
Pool Rooms	1
Power Office	1

Type of Industry or Business	No. of Establishments
Printing Shops	1
Propane Gas Dist.	3
Photo Studio	1
Radio Repair	1
Restaurants	4
Radiator Shop	1
Shoe Repair	1
Seed Cleaning plant	1
Square Dance Teacher	1
Tire Wholesale	1
Theatres	1
Tinsmiths	2
TV Repair	1
Variety Stores	1
Watch Repairs	1
Welding Shop	2
Woodworking	2

Transportation

Canadian Pacific Railway, Edmonton to Winnipeg via Provost.

Canadian Coachways, daily bus service, Edmonton to Macklin, Sask., and return via Provost.

Daily truck service to Edmonton.

Communications

Canadian Pacific Telegraphs; Alberta Government Telephones; Post Office; local amateur radio station; four teleprinter installations (Telex).

Media

Newspaper: Provost News, circulation 1,400, weekly.

Radio: Nearest stations — Edmonton.

Television: Reception received from stations in Edmonton, Saskatoon, Lloydminster, Red Deer and Calgary.

TRAVEL ACCOMMODATION

A 20-unit motel rents at rates of \$7 (single) and up, with television and radio. Licensed hotel has 37 rooms with single rates of \$3.50 and up.

Town-owned trailer park's rates are \$25 per month and up, sewer and water included, power billed extra.



Tourist information centres such as this have been erected by the Alberta government at several locations in the province, including one on Highway No. 13, at Provost

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT



Provost Auction Market is an important support service to area ranching.

Resources

Straw, hay, cereal grains, oilseeds, potatoes, livestock, dairy products; sand and gravel; natural gas and oil; sodium sulphate.

Sites

Sites with electricity for large or small industries are available along the C.P.R. tracks, or along the highway. Home sites are also available, serviced with sewer, water and natural gas.

Agriculture

The Provost rural area is almost completely electrified. Wheat is the principal crop in the best soil area while the sandy soil areas are devoted to pasture. Cattle ranching provides an appreciable part of the local economy.

Petroleum

Some development of petroleum resources has taken place with recovery of a heavy crude; and natural gas which is used locally.

Sodium Sulphate

Alberta Sulphate Ltd. began open pit mining of sodium sulphate deposits in the Horseshoe Lake area west of town in mid-1969. Production in 1971 totalled 80,000 tons.

Tourism

Midway between Saskatoon and Edmonton, Provost offers a variety of tourist facilities, to the highway No. 13 traveller.

Camping, hunting and fishing are enjoyed in season. Dillberry Lake Park, Shorncliffe Lake Park, Cap Eyre Lake campsite, and two provincial highway camp kitchens are located in the vicinity. There is a museum of pioneer artifacts at Shorncliffe Park, near Czar.

The Provost town office monitors G.R.S. channel 8 (U.S. citizens' band channel 11) on weekdays between 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. and the staff will be pleased to provide visitors with up-to-date tourist information, or arrange services. Call XM 21.10.54. We are 10-8.

Businesses Required

Businesses needed for the town and district are: painting contractor and interior decorator; a commercial janitor service; and a veterinary surgeon. The municipal agricultural service board has a veterinary clinic under consideration.

ENQUIRIES

Enquiries about Provost should be directed to:

**Town Secretary,
Town of Provost,
Provost, Alberta.
Telephone 753-2756**

